

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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SUBJECT: BURDENSARING/OFFSET: PRESS GUIDANCE

1. PROPOSED ANSWER DURING PRESS BRIEFING ON BILATERAL OFFSET AGREEMENT TO QUESTION AS TO WHY IT HAS TAKEN SO LONG TO WORK OUT THIS NEW AGREEMENT SHOULD BE REVISED. STATEMENT THAT PARALLEL EFFORT IN NATO TO ARRIVE AT A MULTILATERAL BURDEN-SHARING ARRANGEMENT HAS CAUSED DELAY IN REACHING AGREEMENT WITH THE FRG IS INACCURATE AND MISLEADING, AND WOULD BE INSULTING TO OTHER ALLIES. IN FACT, ALLIES IN NATO HAVE BEEN WORKING COOPERATIVELY AND SUCCESSFULLY WITH THE MISSION AND NATO'S ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE TO MAXIMIZE ELIGIBLE MILITARY PROCUREMENT AND ARE CONTINUING IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO FIND A SOLUTION TO OUR REQUEST FOR RELIEF IN THE US CONTRIBUTION TO NATO BUDGETS. THIS EFFORT ON THE PART OF OUR ALLIES HAS BEEN HAMPERED THROUGHOUT BY LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF OUR REFINED MILITARY EXPENDITURE FIGURES, OF PROGRESS IN OUR BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE FRG, AND OF THE RESULTING DEFICIT TO BE OFFSET TO MAINTAIN US FORCES IN EUROPE AT PRESENT LEVELS.

2. MISSION SUGGESTS THAT QUESTION BE ANSWERED BY STATING:

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QTE WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED DELAYS ARISING FROM SUCH FACTORS AS THE CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES AND PROSPECTS IN THE WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION AND WORK ARISING OUT OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE JACKSON-NUNN AMENDMENT. WE

REQUIRED SOME TIME FOR PROPER INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION OF
THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS NEW US LEGAL REQUIREMENT WITH GERMAN
NEGOTIATORS END QTE. RUMSFELD

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